What's new at Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc.

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Newsletter #218:

What's New at Shanna Schmidt Numismatics Inc.

Happy Friday!
It continues to be a very busy time with auctions happening here and abroad. There are some exciting new auctions coming up and many that I just don't have time to cover. I'll continue to try to cover live auctions versus purely online sales.

New York International Numismatic Convention (13-19 January 2025)
The New York International will host their 53rd event this coming January. While the coin show itself runs only from Thursday, January 16 (professional preview and early bird) - Sunday, January 19, the auctions start much earlier on January 13. Those wanting to view Heritage and CNG (Triton) sales need to plan to come prior to the 13th in order to fully view the sales. For most dealers, we plan to arrive typically on the Sunday prior to the show and stay a full week. During that week one can attend live sales, meet clubs or small presentations that are supported by dealers (like me!) or just walk the show in search of their next favorite coin. Most evenings are filled with auctions and events such as the ANS Gala Dinner or New York Coin Club hold their annual events. I will be attending and exhibiting at this convention as I have had for countless years. I will be representing NAC USA with stock from the Chicago offices and of course my firm, SSNI. More to come but I want to inform everyone in plenty of time to make plans.

European Trip 2024
I will be viewing and attending the **NAC 149-151 sales in Zurich** as well as viewing the **NGSA sale in Geneva.** The NAC auction catalogs will soon be available to the public but those that read my newsletters can have a little insider information. NAC's 149th catalog will be the Medicus Collection, a stunning and near complete sale of Hellenistic coinage with a strong emphasis on Seleucid coinage. This collection was assembled over a 25 year period by an extremely passionate collector. I'm very excited to see the fruits of his labor be displayed in what will most assuredly become a reference catalog. NAC 150 is a cumulation of consignors but there are two standout collections, that from Peter Bowe and also one from an anonymous collector from Scandinavia. Both of these collections have more than a few jaw-dropping coins that will be available. There is a combination of both Greek and Roman coins available in that sale. Finally auction 151 is the second round of British coins from the Cope collection. This certainly will be another gangbuster auction as was the case with the first installment.

The NGSA sale is not yet online but what they do show on their site for the cover of their pending sale is an absolutely phenomenal gold stater of Brutus. This coin is sure to bring an astronomical amount of money. I'm sure I won't have a customer for it but it will be fun to watch it come on the auction block.

Keep your eyes open for when the sale goes up online. I should have plenty of catalogs for those interested in obtaining one if you don't already get it from Zurich directly. As

free services from the Zurich sale. Please get in touch with my assistant Tyler Rossi, who moonlights as the representative for NAC during their auctions for the U.S. buyers. This last sale he quickly packaged and moved over 60 orders within a day or two. We are pleased to offer this service and hope that more and more folks take advantage of it.

Heritage Auctions - Hard Times Token Sale (28 October)
This is not my typical type of auction review but as I am a big fan of Condor tokens it goes without saying that Hard Times tokens from the U.S. also fall into my area of interest. A quick review of what a Hard Times token is for those who don't know. From about 1833 until 1843, the U.S. had a slow down in production of currency. This was due to an economic depression that hit the country at that time causing many banks to fail and people to hoard whatever coins they did have. The result was a shortage of coin in which case private people struck their own money for local circulation. As with British trade tokens, those struck in the U.S. can be witty, satirical and interesting. This auction is from a specific collector, Robert Schuman, and consists of about 334 coins. For those interested in bidding, Heritage has a great bidding platform whereas you can leave a proxy bid or bid live. I don't usually recommend to leave any bid on a book but in this case it usually pays off (and saves a lot of time to do so).

Astarte Fine Art - Auction 23 (28-29 October)
This is the first time in 15 years that Astarte has held a live sale. This Lugano, Switzerland-based firm has an exciting sale with 728 lots being auctioned in two days. Part 1 starts with 54 coins from "A Collection of a Lady". The coins are all fractional Greek and high quality. For those following the Greek fraction market, you'll notice that there have been a few larger auctions showcasing specific collections of fractions. While we do not know who the woman is behind the collection, the pieces are lovely and should appeal to those interested in this area. The downside of course is lack of any real pedigree. While this is slightly puzzling to those of us that are used to seeing most things with some sort of auction record, it isn't totally out of the ordinary. Many coins are purchased privately before they even have a chance to end up in an auction catalog. This shouldn't dissuade anyone from taking part. Another major part of this sale are the 273 coins from Giovanni Maria Staffieri collection. Some may remember the outstanding sale that CNG held in 2018 at their Triton live sale in New York. This was considered part one of the sale. Part two will be held in Lugano through Astarte. There are plenty of other coins of Greek and Republican, Roman and Byzantine to be had in this sale. I will offer representation for this sale so please get in touch soon if you are interested. Unfortunately this sale and the Künker sale in Osnbrück, Germany collide so for many this may be an issue. SSNI will have representation availability for both sales for those interested. I received a paper catalog from Astarte and for those that wish to have one post-sale I'm happy to ask for further copies. Please get in touch if interested.

Künker Fall Auctions - Ancients 416-417 (29-31 October)
For those that didn't catch my last newsletter this is a repeat of the Künker sale. Not wanting to "recreate the wheel", please allow me to restate my last description of this sale.

Künker has a very impressive collection of ancient coins at the end of October. The collection of Dr. Eike Druckrey begins the catalog with about 300 or so of high quality Greek coins. The introduction to Dr. Druckrey, in both German and English, discusses his boyhood and interaction with coins. This continued on into adulthood when he was able to purchase coins. It seems that his collection was formed with aesthesticism at the forefront when determining his purchases. The catalog is beautifully laid out with long write-ups in both languages throughout. It can be used as an educational resource as well as a sales prospectus. Some of the highlights: Lot 1007, a lovely three-quarter facing diobol of Tarentum. The portrait style of Athena is rarely encountered. Lot 1031, A complete and well struck stater from Terina. Lot 1034, an outstanding tetradrachm with decorative reverse type rom Akragas. Lot 1042, a highly sought after tetradrachm from Kamarina with the head of a bearded Hercules wearing a lion headdress. Lot 1059, a very reasonably estimated early tetradrachm from Syrcacuse with a lengthy pedigree. Lot 1108, a sharp and pedigreed stater of Abdera with a strong image of Herakles on the reverse. Lot 1113, an early stater from Berge with a satyr and nymph. Lot 1163, an impressive large didrachm from Larissa. Lot 1171, a rarely seen type from Eretria with an octopus on the reverse. Lot 1252, a heavy silver stater from Croesus. Lot 1295, a remarkably struck and centered bronze of Ptolemy II with above average grade.

pedigree. Some notables include lot 1749, a denarius with the head of Italia and a lengthy pedigree. Lot 1783, a near perfect example of the denarius from L. Hostilius Saserna with complete obverse and reverse. This hails from the Leo Benz collection. Lot 1793, an iridescently toned denarius from Sextus Pompey. Lot 1796, a beautifully struck and complete denarius of the moneyer Q. Caecilius Metellus Pius Scipio. Lot 1809, a gold aureus of Brutus. A seldom encountered type and with a pedigree back to 1969 (it comes with the invoice from that 1969 sale). Lot 1853, a pretty and sharp denarius of Augustus from the Spanish mint Colonia Caesaraugusta. The reverse is an allusion to the comet that was seen by the people and thought to be the soul of the deceased Julius Caesar, the adoptive father of the first Roman emperor, Augustus. Lot 2024, an impressive medallion of close to 49 grams in weight attributed to Septimius Severus. Lot 2069, an excessively rare and modestly estimated gold binio of Valerian. This is only the second example known. Lot 2077, an unusual and seldom seen tetradrachm from Uranius Antoninus out of Emesa. This is also a plate coin in RPC online. Lot 2165, an impressive gold necklace with 14 ancient gold coins (I'm looking for gifts for those interested!). Lot 2166 is an interesting collection of 306 pieces that was owned by the Duchess Clémentine von Orléans of Sachsen-Coburg-Koháry. They are all ancient and range from Greek to Byzantine.

Catalog 417 is an eLive Premium sale and takes place on October 31. There are low estimates and nice quality material available.

We are available for bidding for those interested.

Coin of the week

Roman Empire, Priscus Attalus, 409 AD. Rome Mint.
AV Solidus, 4.33g (20mm, 12h).
PRISCVS ATTALVS P F AVG, pearl-diademed, draped and cuirassed bust to right / INVICTA ROMA AETERNA, helmeted and draped Roma, seated facing on high-backed throne supporting Victory, who stands to right on globe crowning her with wreath and palm, and holding spear; palm branch behind throne, R-M across fields, COMOB in exergue

Pedigree: Ex Roma Numismatics Ltd., Auction XXVII, 22 March 2023, lot 774

References: RIC X 1404; C. 3; Depeyrot 39/1

Grade: About Extremely Fine; a few light scrapes, well struck on a full flan. Exceptionally Rare.

Price: $85,000

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Buy Coin

Priscus Attalus was a Roman Emperor who had a short rule during the late 4th century BC. He was appointed purely as a puppet emperor by the Visigoth king Alaric I during the siege of Rome. While Attalus was legitimately a Roman senator, his rule was influenced and used for political purposes by the Visigoths. This all happened as the former western Roman Empire was in rapid decline. Alaric was attempting to influence the Goths future in Rome by way of installing Attalus to the throne. Unfortunately Attalus maintained only a short rule due to his own aspirations of negotiating with the burgeoning eastern Roman Empire without the consent of his Visigothic superiors. He was quickly deposed, and while he was not murdered as was typical of many Roman rulers of the time, he also quietly disappeared from the historical record.
Coins of Attalus are very seldom seen and when they are available, it is typical to see them in bronze. This coin thus is a rarity and seldom available in the trade.

Coin on my website

If you are interested in any other coins I have to offer please visit my website: shannaschmidt.com

Until next week!
Shanna

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